Dear Senate Committee,

Please consider my submission to the Committee examining the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2012.

I believe that this Bill poses great risks to Australian Society. We need less 'protection' from anti-discrimination legislation, not more. Combining current legislation into one Act and 'applying the highest current standard across all grounds of discrimination' will only make it easier for people's rights to be further eroded through additional 'protected attributes' added at a later date, and current exemptions later denied.

Notwithstanding these general concerns, there are also many specific dangers involved. Adding 'gender identity' as a protected attribute will lead to situations in Australia reminiscent of what is now happening in the US.

Consider the following account of a school who felt they could not prevent a man who identifies as a woman using a girls' changing room because of anti-discrimination (http://www.adfmedia.org/News/PRDetail/7770):

"Alliance Defending Freedom sent a letter to Washington's Evergreen State College Thursday after college officials claimed that its non-discrimination policy doesn't allow the school to stop a man from exposing himself to girls as young as six years old in a women's locker room. A local district attorney has also stated that he doesn't plan to enforce the state's indecent exposure statute to protect the girls.

The 45-year-old male student, who dresses as a woman and goes by the name Colleen Francis, undressed and exposed his male genitalia on several occasions in the presence of young girls who use the college's locker rooms."

How long before the same effects are felt in Australia if this Bill becomes law?

Please recommend that the whole of this Bill be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Kenneth Lewis